

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EURE-00 ISO-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00
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-----121535Z 018571 /54

O R 121410Z JAN 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1069
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
AMEMBASSY ROME

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 3 USNATO 0126

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: MBFR: RED DATA: SPC MEETING, JANUARY 10

REFS: (A) 76 MBFR VIENNA 0622 DTG 160726Z DEC 76, (B) 76 STATE
313916 DTG 302336Z DEC 76

BEGIN SUMMARY: SPC ON JANUARY 10 CONSIDERED AHG REQUEST FOR
DISCRETIONARY AUTHORIZATION TO TABLE RED DATA (REF A). WE DREW
SUBSTANTIALLY ON INSTRUCTIONS IN REF B AS TO WHY THE US DID
NOT FAVOR THIS REQUEST. CANADA AGREED WITH THE US. ONLY ITALY
WANTED NAC GUIDANCE AUTHORIZING AHG TO TABLE RED DATA AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE. OTHER ALLIES DID NOT BELIEVE IT NECESSARY TO TABLE
RED DATA AT THE OUTSET OF THE NEXT ROUND, BUT EXPECTED THE NEED
TO ARISE, AND WANTED NAC TO BE ABLE TO SEND GUIDANCE EXPEDI-
TIOUSLY WHEN IT DID. UK INTRODUCED TEXTS OF DRAFT NAC GUIDANCE
WHICH WOULD COMMIT THE NAC TO SEND THE GUIDANCE WITHOUT
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DELAY IF THE AHG DECIDED THEIR TABLING WAS ESSENTIAL.
WE OBSERVED THAT THIS WOULD IN EFFECT TRANSFER THE
DECISION TO TH AHG, AND THIS SEEMED VERY CLOSE TO GIVING
THE AHG THE DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY IT SOUGHT. FRG AND
UK REPS THEN PROPOSED AMENDMENTS WATERING DOWN THE UK
TEXT, TO THE POINT WHERE CANADIAN AND DUTCH REPS WONDERED
IF THERE WAS ANY USE IN SENDING SUCH GUIDANCE, WHICH
DIDN'T SAY MUCH, TO VIENNA. ACTION REQUESTED: SEE
PARA. 13 BELOW. END SUMMARY

1. AT JANUARY 10 SPC DISCUSSION OF RED DATA ISSUE, WE DREW SUBSTANTIALLY ON INSTRUCTIONS IN REF B.

2. ITALIAN REP (SFARA) SAID THAT HIS AUTHORITIES CONTINUED TO WANT ALLIED ESTIMATES OF EASTERN DATA TO BE TABLED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE STRESSED THAT TO DO OTHERWISE WOULD BE TO RISK ACCEPTING THAT THERE IS NO DISPARITY, AND TO RISK ESTABLISHING THE PRINCIPLE THAT EACH SIDE IN MBFR SIMPLY PRESNETS DATA ON ITS OWN FORCES.

3. CANADIAN REP (BARTLEMAN) SAID THAT CANADA SAW BOTH ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES TO COMPLYING WITH THE AHG REQUEST, BUT ON BALANCE RECOGNIZED THAT THE DISADVANTAGES ARE STRONGER, AND OPPOSED GIVING THE AHG THE DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY IT SOUGHT. HE NOTED SEVERAL REASONS, MOST OF WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN STATED BY US, BUT ADDED THE VIEW OF HIS AUTHORITIES THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF HOW THE ANOMALIES QUESTION MIGHT BE RESOLVED BEFORE TABLING RED DATA.

4. FRG REP (CITRON) SAID FRG AGREED WITH THE US THAT THE DATA DISCUSSION SHOULD BE NON-CONFRONTATIONAL IN ORDER TO TAKE ALL POSSIBLE ADVANTAGE OF THE COUNTING RULE DISCUSSION. HOWEVER THE FRG EXPECTED THE
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SITUATION WOULD SOON ARISE WHERE TABLING OF DATA WOULD BE USEFUL. HE NOTED THAT GDR REP IN VIENNA (OESER) HAS ALREADY SAID THAT WESTERN FIGURES SHOW AN INCREASE. IT MAY THUS PROVE NECESSARY TO SHOW THE INCREASE IN ALLIED ESTIMATES OF EASTERN DATA BY TABLING SUCH DATA. ALSO, THE ALLIES MUST NOT GIVE THE EAST THE OPPORTUNITY TO INTERPRET ALLIED FAILURE TO TABLE RED DATA AS A SIGN OF UNCERTAINTY. THE FRG AGREED WITH THE US THAT THE COUNTING RULES DISCUSSION CAN BE STARTED WITHOUT RED DATA. HOWEVER THE FRG BELIEVES THE SPC SHOULD CONSIDER HOW RED DATA COULD BE PROVIDED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE WHEN THE NEED AROSE.

5. UK REP (HOLMER) SAID THE UK WOULD HAVE PREFERRED GIVING THE AHG THE DISCRETIONARY AUTHORIZATION IT HAD REQUESTED. IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, THEN THE UK WOULD SUPPORT THE SUGGESTION OF THE FRG REP. UK REP CIRCULATED TWO TEXTS OF DRAFT NAC GUIDANCE TO THE AHG.

6. THE UK "DRAFT GUIDANCE I" IS AS FOLLOWS:
(1) THE AHG SHOULD SEEK TO ENGAGE THE EAST IN A DISCUSSION OF DEFINITION AND COUNTING METHODS ON THE BASIS OF THE FIGURES NOW TABLED BY EACH SIDE.

(2) LATEST AVAILABLE WESTERN DATA ON EASTERN
UNIFORMED ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY GROUND FORCE
PERSONNEL AND FOR EASTERN UNIFORMED ACTIVE DUTY

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1070
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
AMEMBASSY ROME

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MILITARY GROUND AND AIR FORCE PERSONNEL WILL BE
SENT WITHOUT DELAY IF THE AHG DECIDES THAT THEIR
TABLING IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE
WESTERN POSITION ON DISPARITIES."

7. THE UK "DRAFT GUIDANCE II" IS THE TEXT OF THE
AUTHORIZATIOON TO THE AHG TO TABLE RED DATA WHICH
WOULD BE SENT TO VIENNA WITHOUT DELAY IF THE AHG
MADE THE ABOVE DECISION. THIS TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS."

BEGIN TEXT:
TO BE AGREED IN THE ALLIANCE BUT TRANSMITTED TO VIENNA
ONLY IF THE AD HOC GROUP DECIDES THAT SUCH GUIDANCE IS
ESSENTIAL FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE WESTERN POSITION ON DISPARITIES

1. THE AD HOC GROUP IS AUTHORIZED TO USE IN THE
NEGOTIATIONS THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
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A. ACCORDING TO WESTERN ESTIMATES,
THE TOTAL NUMBER OF UNIFORMED ACTIVE
DUTY MILITARY GROUND FORCE PERSONNEL
OF THE SOVIET, UNION, THE GDR, POLAND
AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN THE AREA OF

REDUCTIONS WAS 962,000 AS AT 1 JANUARY 1976;

B. ACCORDING TO WESTERN ESTIMATES, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF UNIFORMED ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY GROUND AND AIR FORCE PERSONNEL OF THE SOVIET UNION, THE GDR, POLAND AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS WAS 1,163,000 AS AT 1 JANUARY 1976.
END TEXT.

8. BELGIAN REP (CROLLEN) SAID THAT BELGIUM FAVORED GIVING THE AHG DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY, BUT SAW THE VALUE OF THE US ARGUMENTS, BUT SAW THE VALUE OF THE US ARGUMENTS, AND HOPED THAT SOME COMPROMISE, SUCH AS THAT PROPOSED BY THE UK, WOULD BE POSSIBLE. HOWEVER CANADIAN REP OBSERVED THAT THE SPC AND NAC COULD ACT RAPIDLY ONCE THEY HAD DECIDED THE DATA SHOULD BE TABLED, WITHOUT A PROCEDURE SUCH AS THAT SUGGESTED BY THE UK REP. NETHERLANDS REP (MEESMAN) MADE CLEAR THAT HE DID NOT HAVE INSTRUCTIONS. US REP (MOORE) NOTED THAT THE UK DRAFT, IN COMMITTING THE NAC TO SEND THE GUIDANCE WITHOUT DELAY ONCE THE AHG MADE ITS DECISION, IN EFFECT TRANSFERRED THE DECISION ON TABLING RED DATA TO THE AHG. THIS WOULD SEEM VERY CLOSE TO GIVING THE AHG THE DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY IT SOUGHT, WHICH THE US WAS UNABLE TO SUPPORT. THE DECISION ON RED DATA WAS, AT THIS TIME, STILL MORE OF A POLICY THAN A TACTICAL MATTER.
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HE ADDED THAT HE AGREED WITH THE CANADIAN REP: ONCE THE ALLIES HAD TAKEN THE POLITICAL DECISION TO TABLE RED DATA, THERE WOULD BE NO DELAY IN APPROVING BRIEF, SIMPLE GUIDANCE AUTHORIZING THE AHG TO TABLE THE DATA.

9. FRG REP SUGGESTED TONING DOWN THE AUTOMATICITY OF PARA 2 OF THE UK "DRAFT GUIDANCE I" BY REPLACING "WILL BE SENT WITHOUT DELAY" BY COULD BE RELEASED BY THE NAC." BELGIAN REP SUPPORTED THE FRG SUGGESTION, BUT CANADIAN REP WONDERED IF THE UK "DRAFT GUIDANCE I" WOULD THEN SAY ANYTHING NEW. HE THOUGHT THAT IF THE SPC COULD NOT AGREE TO GIVE THE AHG DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY, THEN PERHAPS NO NEW GUIDANCE WAS NEEDED. HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT THE UK "DRAFT GUIDANCE I," EVEN AS AMENDED BY FRG, WOULD CREATE THE IMPRESSION THAT ONLY IF THE AHG HAD MADE ITS DECISION COULD THE DATA BE RELEASED BY THE NAC. HOLMER SAID HE CONSIDERED THE FRG AMENDMENT HELPFUL, AND TO MEET THE CANADIAN POINT HE PROPOSED REPLACING

"IF THE AHG DECIDES" BY "ONCE A DECISION HAS BEEN REACHED." DUTCH REP JOINED CANADIAN REP IN WONDERING IF THERE WAS ANY USE IN SENDING SUCH GUIDANCE, WHICH DID NOT REALLY SAY MUCH, TO VIENNA.

10. THE ITALIAN REP POINTED OUT THAT ITALY, LIKE THE US, DID NOT WANT TO LEAVE THE DECISION TO THE AHG. HE PROPOSED THAT THE SPC NOW START WORKING WITH THE UK "DRAFT GUIDANCE II" IN ORDER TO SEND THE AHG AUTHORIZATION TO TABLE THE RED DATA AT AN EARLY DATE. AFTER A LONG PAUSE, THE CHAIRMAN (JUNG) NOTED LIMITED ENTHUSIASM FOR THE SPC TO TAKE THAT COURSE.

11. SPC WILL NEXT CONSIDER RED DATA ON MONDAY, JANUARY 17.

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
AMEMBASSY ROME

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12. COMMENT: ITALY APPEARS TO BE ISOLATED IN WISHING RED DATA TO BE TABLED AT THE OUTSET OF THE NEXT ROUND. THE QUESTION WHICH ARISES IS WHETHER THE NAC SHOULD AGREE TO SOME SORT OF INITIAL GUIDANCE IN RESPONSE TO THE AHG REQUEST. WE ASSUME THAT THE ORIGINAL VERSION OF THE UK "DRAFT GUIDANCE I" (PARA 6 ABOVE) WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE US, SINCE IT WOULD, LIKE THE AHG'S REQUEST FOR DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY, TRANSFER THE DECISION ON RED DATA TO THE AHG. UK AND FRG REPS APPEARED TO RECOGNIZE THIS WITH THEIR SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS (PARA 9 ABOVE), BUT AS CANADIAN AND DUTCH REPS OBSERVED, THE AMENDED UK "DRAFT GUIDANCE I" WOULD NOT SAY VERY MUCH. IT SEEMS TO US THE AMENDED UK "DRAFT GUIDANCE I" IS RELATIVELY HARMLESS, BUT WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS NECESSARY. SIMILARLY,

THERE WOULD SEEM NO NEED TO AGREE IN ADVANCE ON A
TEXT LIKE THE UK "DRAFT GUIDANCE II," SINCE THE
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ALLIES COULD AGREE VERY RAPIDLY TO SIMPLE GUIDANCE
OF THIS SORT ONCE THEY HAD AGREED TO TABLE RED DATA.
HOWEVER, WASHINGTON MIGHT WISH TO AUTHORIZE US TO
COMMENT THAT IF THE ALLIES AGREED TO TABLE RED DATA,
A TEXT ALONG THE LINES OF UK "DRAFT GUIDANCE II" WOULD
BE GENERALLY ADEQUATE, BUT WE WOULD WANT TO TAKE
ANOTHER LOOK AT THAT TIME. IT SEEMS TO US THAT THE
BEST OUTCOME ON THE AHG REQUEST, FOR THE TIME BEING, WOULD
BE SIMPLE RECOGNITION BY THE SPC THAT THE ALLIES CAN
NOT AGREE TO MEET THE AHG REQUEST AT THIS TIME, AND
THAT ALL ALLIES WILL BE WILLING TO REEXAMINE THE
QUESTION AT A LATER POINT IN THE ROUND (PER PARA 7,
REF B). END COMMENT.

13. ACTION REQUESTED WASHINGTON GUIDANCE, IN
LIGHT OF COMMENT IN PRECEDING PARA, IN TIME FOR
SPC MEETING MONDAY, JANUARY 17. STRAUSS-HUPE

SECRET

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